

THIS IS AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
IT MAY NOT BE COPIED WITHOUT
THE AUTHOR'S PERMISSION

Note: (Title: The Life and Work of Genaro Garcia; an Estimate of His
Contribution to Mexican Historiography.)

THIS IS AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
IT MAY NOT BE COPIED WITHOUT
THE AUTHOR'S PERMISSION

THIS IS AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
IT MAY NOT BE COPIED WITHOUT
THE AUTHOR'S PERMISSION

THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENARO GARCIA; AN ESTIMATE OF
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO MEXICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of
The University of Texas in Partial Fulfill-
ment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

Lola Jackson, B. A.

(Gladewater, Texas)

Austin, Texas,

June, 1926.

254184

THIS IS AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
IT MAY NOT BE COPIED WITHOUT
THE AUTHOR'S PERMISSION

THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENARO GARCIA; AN ESTIMATE OF
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO MEXICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

THESIS

THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENARO GARCIA; AN ESTIMATE
OF HIS CONTRIBUTION TO MEXICAN
HISTORIOGRAPHY

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

Lola Jackson, B. A.

(Wadsworth, Texas)

Austin, Texas,

June, 1926.

384184

PREFACE

The Genaro García Collection of Mexicana was acquired by the University of Texas in 1921. This Library comprising some 25,000 books and pamphlets, 2,000 newspapers and 400,000 manuscripts formerly belonged to one of the foremost Mexican scholars, Genaro García. This collector was a noted educator, editor and historian of the first rank. The purpose of this study is to present an account of the life, work and contribution of this man. As so little material concerning Genaro García is available in English, it is believed that the information contained in this study will be of interest and service not only to students of this University who use the Library but also to those others interested in Spanish American history.

For the details of his life the writer has relied chiefly upon three documents: (1) a transcript of some facts concerning his life made by García himself, (2) a letter from his eldest son, Trinidad, in answer to a questionnaire which the writer

sent him, and (3) an article in the Boletín del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía for July, 1922, written by his life-long friend, Luis González Obregón. The collection of scrap-books of clippings and personal letters relating to the work of García were retained by the family and the writer has not had access to them.

The writings of Genaro García are not cited in customary bibliographical form in the footnotes for this information is given in the complete bibliography at the end of the thesis. All the books contained in the bibliography are to be found in the García Collection.

The writer wishes to express her appreciation to Dr. J. L. Mecham and to Dr. Lota Spell for the helpful suggestions and constructive criticism which they have given her.

May 21, 1926
Austin, Texas

Lola Jackson.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I

The Man and His Career.....	1
-----------------------------	---

Chapter II

The Collector.....	21
--------------------	----

Chapter III

The Editor.....	39
-----------------	----

Chapter IV

The Writer.....	54
-----------------	----

Chapter V

An Estimate of Genaro García.....	86
-----------------------------------	----

Appendix.....	95
---------------	----

Bibliography.....	99
-------------------	----

THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENARO GARCIA; AN ESTIMATE OF
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO MEXICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

Chapter I

The Man and His Career

In the annals of a country there are a few men in each field whose names stand out prominently. Among those who enjoyed this distinction as book-lovers and collectors in Mexico is Genaro García. This man was not only a book-lover and collector but also a distinguished bibliographer, editor, educator, and perhaps the best known of the modern scientific writers of Mexican history.

Genaro García, who was of excellent Spanish blood, was the son and grandson of ministers of the government. His father, Trinidad García, was born in Sombrerete, Zacatecas, May 22, 1831. In 1856 he fought under Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza for the defense of the Republic. However, he was more of a politician and educator than a military man. During his

first term as president of Mexico, Porfirio Díaz called García to the capital to serve as minister of Gobernación, an office which corresponds to the Secretary of the Interior in the United States. Some time later he was Secretario de Hacienda, or Secretary of the Treasury. For many years he served as Deputy to the Congress of the Union, where he represented the fourteenth electoral district of Vera Cruz.

But the father of Genaro García had other than political interests. He was a professor, and was deeply interested in mining. As a professor he worked in the Zacatecas schools, and for three years, he was director of the National School for the Deaf-Mutes. One of the alumni, in speaking of his directorship, says,

"The School owes its great prosperity to the diligence and intelligence of Señor García."¹

1 Sanchez Santos, Trinidad, "Revista," in La Voz de México (México, 1897) p. 38.

He wrote several articles on the methods used in the school. He also wrote several pamphlets on the mines

and their development. He owned some mining property in Zacatecas. He won both a bronze and a silver medal on his exhibit of minerals at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904.

Trinidad García held a number of honorary positions. He was director of the Nacional Monte de Piedad de México which is the principal charitable institution in that country. He was a member of the Congres Geologigue Internacionale, and of the Sociedad Mexicana de Minería.

The mother of Genaro ~~Garcia~~ García, Señora Luz Valdes de García, was born in the city of Parras, in the State of Coahuila. She had a passion for buying endless numbers of plants and birds of all species.

²
One writer suggests that perhaps the son inherited

2 González Obregón, Luis, "Genaro García" in Boletín del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía (México, 1922), p. 3.

his love for collecting from his mother.

Genaro García was born in Fresnillo, in the State of Zacatecas, on August 17, 1867. During the first twelve years of his life he was in very feeble

health. Consequently, he was unable to attend school with any degree of regularity, but he did make a beginning in the schools in San Luis Potosí before his father moved to the capital, in 1877, to assume his duties in the cabinet of Porfirio Díaz. After moving to Mexico City his health was somewhat improved so that he at once began his primary instruction in the college of Zambrano. This must not have been a satisfactory school for after only a few months he transferred to the private college of Don Emilio G. Baz which, he stated, was the better school. He was still suffering from ill-health and was out of school twice before he completed the course there. His preparatory instruction was completed by the end of 1886 when he was graduated from the National Preparatory School.

Genaro García made a brilliant record in the National School of Jurisprudence in spite of having to battle with ill-health. When he began his studies in this law school he realized that he had to wage a real campaign against his enemy, physical

weakness, so he set about it at once. He employed such measures as regular physical exercises, daily cold baths, and a carefully chosen diet. He says,

"My assiduity was such in this regard that I was soon able to conclude my career without being seriously interrupted by my health." 3

3 García, Genaro, Notes on My Life. Typed copy, 2 p. (Mexico, undated). Hereafter referred to as Notes. This document is deposited in the García Library.

He completed the six year course in three years and ten months, taking his professional examinations on February 20, 1891. The subject of his lawyer's dissertation was La desigualdad de la mujer. He dedicated the study to his father and mother.

He did not have long to wait for his first commission. He writes,

"In April of the same year (1891) I was appointed as an attorney for several people to settle some land business of great importance in Texas. I left for the United States the same month, but I soon had to return on account of the serious illness of my principal constituent. I remained only a few days in San Antonio and Austin." 4

4 García, Genaro, Notes.

In July, 1892, the voters in the District of Nieves, in the State of Zacatecas, elected García as a substitute deputy to the Chamber of Deputies, which is the lower house of the Congress of the Union. Two years later he was elected as a regular representative from the District of Pinos, in the same state. He served in the Chamber of Deputies until 1912. The Independent Liberal Club of Zacatecas supported him for re-election, and, in spite of the fact that he announced a constructive program based upon the general social and economic welfare of the state, with emphasis upon the improvement of conditions for the working classes, the extension of the educational system to include the Indians, and the fostering of better relations between the laborers and capitalists, he was not re-elected! This was likely due to the revolutionary factions in the state and not opposition to the man or to the principles for which he stood. In the journals of the lower House, however, there are few accounts of his active participation in the daily proceedings, although he did serve as one of

the secretaries from 1898 to 1910. In a newspaper

5 El Excelsior.(Nov. 27, 1920)., 1900?

article, written at the time of his death, there is the statement that he made good use of his stay in the Chamber of Deputies by improving the library and the printing office. The article further states that

"he has always been separated from politics, properly speaking."

In February, 1893, García was appointed Defensor de Oficio, or Council for the Defense. He only held this position until the end of the year.

He devoted very little time to the practise of law. He says,

"With regard to my profession I confess that shortly after being admitted to the bar I began to see it with disfavor. Justice was not imparted as I had thought. Indeed, until now, I have been enthusiastic over only one affair. It was the following:

"On August 9, 1894, Colonel Francisco Romero killed Don José Verástequi, General del Timbre, whose death deeply moved all society. Many well known people, some prominent in politics, intervened in the affair, and there was not a newspaper which was not filled with it. On October 11, the widow of Verástequi appointed me to act as her attorney. Though my constituent only asked me to defend, in the proceedings, the good name of her husband that Romero had attacked in a thousand ways, I saw a brilliant

opportunity for establishing the whole-some precedent of civil indemnification to the victims of the crime, only known here, at that time, in the laws and books, and to such an end I worked with great determination, aiming at the same time to destroy the absurd practise of dueling. Besides the proceedings, I maintained a long controversy with Colonel Tovar, the author of the Código del Duelo, accepted here, which was published in El Nacional and El Universal at the end of June and the beginning of July. In the requisition that I pronounced when the case was carried to the jury, I took care also to speak against dueling in general. My efforts were not unfruitful for, on August 25, 1895, I obtained a favorable sentence in the first instance, by which Romero was sentenced to complete conformity with my demand, or, that is, first, to pay to my constituent \$4500 annually for eighteen years, second, to pay for the expense of cremating the body of Sr. Verástegui, and third, to pay the costs. The sentence was confirmed on appeal and abrogation except with some modifications. Since that time no other duel has taken place." 6

6 García, Genaro, Notes.

In these early days of his life Genaro García demonstrated his ability in a business way. From October, 1891, to September, 1892, he was ^{at} Chalchihuites, Zacatecas, looking after the mining interests of his father. At one time this mine had been very rich but for some reason it was in almost complete ruin. He

took entire charge of it, even directing the work himself. He never seemed afraid to undertake any task, no matter how difficult, even if he had no previous knowledge of it or special preparation for it. His devotion to work made him eager to think out his own problems and evidently he struck the right note in this case for the business prospered.

García says,

"My father knew that the business would continue to prosper with me at the head of it, but he preferred, extremely affectionate, to have me at his side. He said, in a letter dated September 24, (1892), 'on account of being the smallest, you have always been at my side... animating me with your studies, because I always found in them great hopes for the future.' Therefore, I returned to Mexico."⁷

⁷ García, Genaro, Notes

But he retained his interest in mining throughout his life. He later acquired some mines, in his native state, for which he had great enthusiasm. He tried several times to exploit them, each time organizing the work himself. However, they did not always pay dividends. There is a note to this effect in one

8

of the numerous pamphlets on mining

⁸ Walker, H., Los Impuestos sobre la industria de petróleo, (México, 1912).

which he possessed.

The occupation to which García devoted many years of his life was that of a college professor. During the years 1899 to 1903 he was connected with the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City. His first work there was done in the Department of Spanish Literature, then later, he was Professor of "Indumentaria" - or the Study of Ancient Costuming. For the next four years he was employed as professor of history in the National Museum. After serving as sub-director and director, from 1907 to 1911, he returned in July (?) 1911, as director of the history department, which position he held until sometime in 1913. During this time he was granted leave of absence to make an excursion for historical purposes in-

9 "Report of Department of History," in Boletín del Museo Nacional, de Arqueología, Historia, y Etnografía (México, 1912).

to the southern states of Mexico, with the sub-director of Public Instruction, Ezequiel A. Chávez. When he returned on May 1st, 1912, he resumed classes which had been suspended for lack of an instructor,

arranged various articles in the Department for exhibition, and began collecting materials for a celebration in honor of Morelos. In July he was granted a four months leave of absence, with salary, in order to fulfill a commission in Europe.

While he was Director of the National Preparatory School he also taught in the history department. The last professorship he held was in the department of History and Justice in the private college, El Colegio Frances, of San Luis Gonzaga.

10

In the Introduction to the Annals of the

10 García, Genaro, "Introduction," in Anales del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía. (México, 1907).

National Museum for 1907, García stated that his first task, as sub-director, would be to improve the Annals published by the Museum, until they presented, to the Mexican people, a true account of the study and work accomplished in the sciences to which the museum was devoted. In 1908 when he became the actual director he announced that the same principles and policies, in force during the past year, would prevail.

The following year an important change was

made in the Museum. It was divided into two separate institutions, that of the National Museum of Natural History and that of the National Museum of Archeology, History, and Ethnography. This change necessitated much real work on the part of the director. At the same time he was re-arranging everything in the museum for the exhibition to be held during the celebration of the Centennial in 1910. He was often interrupted by visitors, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other important officials, whom he had to accompany over the Museum.

The institution was growing rapidly . García
11
made the statement that in his own time, 1907 to 1909,

11 García, Genaro, Informe relativo al Museo Nacional. (Mexico, 1909), p. 12.

it had increased its collection enormously, as about 70,000 objects had been added in the two years.

In 1913 he again became director of the Museum but only for a few months. He said,

"My program, as in 1907, will be confined, fundamentally, to procuring in the best possible manner, the development of our archeology, which is undoubtedly the most interesting in American of our history, destined to increase the love for our country, and of our ethnography, without which we cannot hope to solve our most ser-

ious national problems." 12

12 García, Genaro, "Advertencia" in Anales
del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia, y Etno-
grafía, 1913.

In summing up his work in the National
Museum, Luis González Obregón says,

"He revealed his ability as an organizer
and reformer, displaying strict method and most
severe discipline. Though it is certain that
his predecessors in the Museum did not rely,
as he did, upon the rich and ample endowment
from the President of the Republic, yet Genaro
returned the favor with all his learning and
all his labor, converting the Museum into a
very rich arsenal of archeological and his-
torical relics." 13

13 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.

On December 17, 1913, the Secretary of
Public Instructions, Nemesio García Naranjo, presented
to the faculty of the National Preparatory School the
new director, Genaro García. The task before the new
director was a difficult one. Reform measures were
badly needed as only fifteen out of a hundred pupils
completed the prescribed course. García collected num-
bers of pamphlets and catalogs which set forth the
aims and policies of the school, and evidently he
studied them diligently for they were copiously marked

with ^{his} ever-ready red pencil.

In a bulletin of the school for February 1914, there is an article¹⁴ concerning the introduction of physical exercises into the regular course of study. The students had been given physical training prior to this time but in a haphazard sort of way. The new plan provided for three groups of students, the classification to depend upon their physical constitution, and not upon their chronological age or rank in school. The type of exercise given, gymnastics, followed by cold baths, was also to be regulated to suit the needs of each particular group. The classifications were not rigid for a student could be transferred to a different group at any time during the year, if his instructor, and the director, thought it best for him. This is only one of the reforms which he introduced and González Obregón¹⁴ says that it is

14 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.

impossible to properly evaluate his work as director or to appreciate the results of the reforms which he initiated because he was not allowed to complete them.

He had received his commission under the Huerta administration and when it lost power he was removed.

Genaro García had some respite from grinding toil in the form of travel. As mentioned above he came to Texas when just a young man, and he made several excursions over Mexico, usually in search of historical material, however. He was quite fortunate in being selected as a representative of the Mexican Congress to attend a celebration in Spain in 1912. This was a series of fiestas commemorating the centennial of the Cortez of Cadiz. In the same year, García representated Mexico in the Fourteenth Congress of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archeology which met in Geneva in September. He had only three days in which to make the trip from Geneva to Anselmo, where he attended the meeting of the French Prehistoric Congress. On this tour he not only visited France, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain, but also the United States and Cuba.

While abroad he visited archeological and historical ruins but paid particular attention to museums and libraries. In this way he greatly in-

16 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson
(Mexico, Feb. 23, 1926.)

creased his knowledge of works of art and of the important scientific centers. While in France he carefully studied the Louvre, and when in Spain he devoted some time to a study of the Prado. When he came to the United States he made a survey of the system used in the Congressional Library in Washington. He wrote sketches upon these observations. He also made some written observations upon the European and American culture.¹⁵

15 The writer has been unable to find these sketches.

In 1891 García wrote a small book on the status of woman which he dedicated to the Señorita Concepción Aguirre. Four years later, February 24, 1895, in the city of San Luis Potosí, he was married to this same Miss Aguirre! To this union were born twelve children Trinidad, José, Dolores, Luz, Genaro, Paz, Rafael, María, Luisa, Juan, Antonio, Concepción Guadalupe, and Magdalena Sofía. All of the children, except the two last named, are living.

¹⁶
A letter, written by the eldest son, con-

16 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson
(Mexico, Feb. 23, 1926.)

veys the impression that García was a most kind and loving father, although he was very strict with his children. He was especially careful to teach them to fulfil all of their obligations. As he was very fond of manual labor himself he worked with his family whenever possible, trusting that by his example he could instil in them the same inclination.

The state of his health in his youth had necessitated regular physical exercises. He learned to take great pleasure in them. The forms of exercise and recreation which he enjoyed most were horseback riding and fencing. He excelled in each of them. Realizing the value of regular physical training, as well as the pleasure to be derived from it, he endeavored to foment enthusiasm for it in his sons. In order to affect this desire he frequently took part in their games.

All of the time that García was not employed with his regular work was dedicated to his family. No sacrifice was too great and no effort too strenuous which would result in the educational advancement of his children. Although he was strict with them, he

loved them dearly and was kind to them.

During the last few years of his life García did not engage in public work but devoted his entire time to the cares of his large family, to attending to his business affairs, and especially to writing and editing.

For almost a year before the end came García was ill. In March, 1920, a Mexican newspaper¹⁷ con-

¹⁷ El Excelsior. (March 3, 1920.)

tained a notice of his illness, "due to a nervous disorder occasioned by excessive work." His son said¹⁸

¹⁸ García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson. (Nov. 27, 1920.)

that the revolutionary events in Mexico affected him extremely and that was one of the causes that produced his last illness. The most eminent physicians of Mexico City seemed to be unable to definitely class-¹⁹ify the disease from which he suffered but stated

¹⁹ El Excelsior. (Nov. 27, 1920.)

that it resembled the "pernicious anemia" then so

prevalent in Europe as a consequence of the World War. His sons freely and gladly gave some of their life-blood for their father but neither blood transfusion, nor careful nursing availed. His severe suffering was not ended until on November 26, 1920, when he "finished his course."

As the qualities that make up the personality of the man are considered one is amazed at his prodigious energy, handicapped though he was by the lack of a strong, healthy body, and with his great capacity for accomplishing things. His collections and writings, in which he was engaged throughout his life, will be considered later. While he was serving as a deputy he was also holding either a professorship or a directorship in some one of the outstanding schools in Mexico, and, at the same time, he managed to acquire some mining property, and some real estate, which naturally demanded some of his attention.

And yet, in spite of being so busily engaged with his own affairs, this many-sided individual had time to be a loving companion to his children and an adviser to his students, for whom he showed great

fondness. He aided them in many ways, even putting his home and library at their disposal.

García was always ready to render assistance to those persons whom he considered worthy of it. He very generously and unselfishly sold some of his most dearly prized possessions, his books, in order to help his father tide over a critical period in the development of some of his mines. Another incident also demonstrates his generosity in this respect. When the library belonging to the Chamber of Deputies was destroyed by fire García presented ²⁰ thirty-one books,

20 Diario de los Debates, Congress XXIV, II, 2
(Mexico 1909).

which he had written or edited, to be a nucleus for a new library.

Even though García was kind, affectionate, and generous he was also very firm and could even be caustic if the occasion required it. His love for truth made him harsh and severely critical toward any person that he thought had violated the principles of truth, especially in historical writing. He said exactly what he felt with the frankness that was peculiar to him.

Chapter II

The Collector.

The tendency to collect something was very pronounced in this versatile man. Being exceedingly fond of objects of art, both ancient and modern, he collected great numbers of them. He had a good collection of paintings by both foreign and Mexican artists, some being of great merit.²¹ He acquired a

21 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

number of ancient porcelains, Dutch glazed tile, painted in various colors, and large china jars. He accumulated stamps, medals, bronzes, marble tablets, book-plates, idols,²² and a large collection of photographs,

22 The family kept these works of art, except the portraits of Margil de Jesús, who is connected with Texas history, and of Juan de Palafox, a bishop of Mexico, who occupied such a large place in the interest of García.

principally of works of art, public buildings, etc., in Europe and in Mexico.

"His dominant passion, however, was for books and manuscripts." 23

23 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.p.7

Of himself García said,

"I remember that at the age of fourteen I began to collect various books in a small bookcase. I added to this one book after another and today I am still increasing my modest library, though very gradually." 24

24 García, Genaro, Notes.

González Obregón says,

"He forget all for books. He sought them in antique shops, in old libraries, and in various other places.... He travelled over Mexico searching for them and returned happy with his conquests.....

"This joy, this pleasure that no one can comprehend but he who has felt it, cost García a fortune. He was really a lover of books. He esteemed them for their content, for their rareness, for their value, for the beauty of their illustrations, for the fineness of their print, and for their artistic bindings. His enthusiasm, as a collector, was not limited to the classic editions of the great printers. He bought various editions, in order to exhaust a subject or to form a more complete and extensive library." 25

25 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.p.7

And yet García was not the type of collector who accumulates merely for the love of possessing a collection or because of pride of ownership.

He was a worker, a scholar with a very definite purpose and he built up his library as a means of accomplishing that purpose. He was intensely patriotic; his greatest concern was for the future welfare of his beloved country which could only be promoted by a close study of past events.

He believed that the finest way to train the youth of the land for citizenship was to teach them as their first lesson that the greatness of their country would depend upon the individual accomplishments of its good sons. He wanted them to read as the best chapters of history, the biographies of the heroes whose most elevated ideals had made secure the well-being and progress of humanity,

"Who could know these men without loving them, and who could love them without imitating them more or less completely? Assuredly, there is no one. Therefore I am convinced that each country should hasten to exhume those who lie in forgotten tombs in order that new citizens may continually see them and profit by their beneficent influence." 26

26 García, Genaro, ed., "Advertencia" in Documentos indditos o muy raros para la historia de México. (México, 1905-1911), XIX, 7-8.

Such a conception of history explains his

diligent search for forgotten lore and the real sacrifices he made to secure the materials which he considered necessary for the preparation of complete and authentic accounts of the activities of those men and women who had made the history of Mexico. The library grew naturally. As García worked on a subject he endeavored to acquire as much material on it as possible. He kept in touch with book-dealers all over the world. He placed special funds abroad so that at a moment's notice his agents could send the works that he wanted.

García obtained a great number of valuable works from the heirs of men who had been collectors, or men of letters, before him. Often many people, knowing his affection for books, would bring them to his home, or people in the states of the Republic would offer books and manuscripts to him, sometimes gratuitously, because they knew his disinterested fondness ²⁷ for them. Numbers of people were willing to

27 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

let him have their manuscript collections, asking only that he publish them. Several times through the med-

ium of the introductions to his Documentos inéditos he thanked not only those who had put the originals at his disposition but also those who had given him exact copies of interesting historical documents.

He possessed works on many subjects; bibliography, geography, religion, science, jurisprudence, literature, history, and especially books, pamphlets, periodicals and manuscripts relating to Mexico. Of his collection of such materials, Mr. E. W. Winkler, after a three weeks' careful survey of the Library, said,

"It is a marvelous collection of good materials for the history of Mexico in all its phases from the beginning to about 1920."28

28 Winkler, E. W., Letter to Dr. E. C. Barker. (Mexico, Feb. 7, 1921.)

The very numbers included are impressive. González Obregón states that García bequeathed to his children a very rich library numbering around 25,000 titles including the pamphlets; approximately 18,000 volumes deal with national history, from the prehispanic codices
29
to the most modern books. The Mexican newspapers

29 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.p.7

and periodicals number something like 2,000.

30 Winkler, E. W., Letter to Dr. E. C. Barker

The manuscript material comprises some 400,000 folios. -

As the subject that lay nearest the heart of Genaro García was the history of his own country, works on Mexico form the bulk of the library. As he intended his library to be a workshop, no phase or period of the history of his native land was neglected.

The collection of materials, dealing with the aborigines is unusual. There are books and pamphlets on the languages and customs of the natives, profusely illustrated books on the archeology of Mexico, and a complete collection of the published Mexican

31

codices. These codices which are reproduced by a

31 Of these the most outstanding are:

Codex Aubin. Mexico, 1902
Codex borbonicus. Paris, 1899.
Codex Borgianus. Berlin, 1904-1909.
Codex Chimalpopocatl. Mexico, 1885.
Codex Chumayel. Merida, 1912.
Codex Cortesianus. Paris, 1883.
Codex Magliabecchi. Berkeley, 1903 and Rome, 1904.
Codex Mariano Jiménez. Mexico, 1904.
Codex Ramirez. Paris, 1903.
Codex Rios. Rome, 1900.
Codex Telleriano-Remensis. Paris, 1899.
Codex Troano. Paris, 1869-1870.
Codex vaticanus. Berlin 1902 and Rome, 1896.

photographic process, are much more accurate than
the famous Kingsborough edition of Antiquities of
32
Mexico.

32 Kingsborough, Edward King, Antiquities
of Mexico. 9v. (London, 1830-1848.)
**-----

The material relating to the discovery and
conquest of New Spain comprises many volumes. There
are the Ternaux-Compans, and Navarrete compilations
33
of voyages, numerous works on Columbus, Cortes, and

33 Ternaux-Compans, H., Voyages, Relations
et Memoires originaux pour servir a l'histoire de la
decouverte de l'amerique. 20v. (Paris, 1837-1841);
Navarrete, Martin Fernández de, Colección
de los viages y descubrimientos. 5 v. (Madrid, 1825.)

the important collections of documents for the his-
34
tory of Mexico. The same is true for each outstanding

34 Colección de documentos inéditos re-
lativos al descubrimiento, conquista, y colonización
de las posesiones Españolas en América y Océania.
42v. (Madrid, 1864-1884);

García Icazbalceta, Joaquín, ed., Colección
de documentos para la Historia de México. 2v. (Mexico,
1858-1866);

Orozco y Berra, Manuel, ed., Documentos
para la Historia de Méjico. 2lv. (México, 1853-1857.)

period of Mexican history. Especially is the collect-

ion rich in books and pamphlets dealing with the War of Independence and with the French Intervention.

In the library are the journals of the Cortes, of Spain, of the Mexican Congress, of the state legislatures, and of the city council of Mexico City after 1524. .

The files of the cabinet reports are very complete from 1823 to the present day. In the law collection is found the very rare edition of Provisiones y Cédulas, etc., gathered and published by Diego de

35 Provisiones, Cédulas, Capítulos de ordenanzas, instrucciones y cartas, tocantes al buen gobierno de las Indias. Sacado todo ello de los Libros del dicho Consejo. 4v. (Madrid, 1596).

Encinas, a clerk in the Secretariat of the Council of the Indies. This edition is much more valuable than the Recopilación because it gives a complete historical survey of the steps in the development of the various laws. It almost constitutes a commentary on the laws. Of the Recopilación de leyes there are five editions, 1681, 1756, 1772, the Nueva Recopilación in 1775 and the Novissima Recopilación edited in 1805.

36 Recopilación de leyes de los reynos de las Indias. 4v. (Madrid, 1756-1805).

There are various collections of Mexican laws covering

the years 1822 to 1920. A number of volumes on inter-

 - 37 Arrillaga, Basilio José, Recopilación de leyes, decretos, bandos, reglamentos, circulares, providencias, de las Supremos Poderes. 14v. (México, 1838-1850);

El Archivo Mexicano. Colección de leyes decretos, circulares y otros documentos. 6v. (México 1856-1862).
 Dublán, Manuel, Legislación Mexicana. 34v. (México, 1876ff.)

national law are included. The very full collection
 38
 of alegatos extends from the seventeenth to the

 38 An alegato is similar to a lawyer's
 brief.

twentieth centuries.

After an examination of the books which the library contains one is struck with the wide and varied interests of Genaro García. There are some sixty volumes and numerous pamphlets on music and musicians; many works on art, both Mexican and European; philosophical studies of Greek, Latin, German, French, and English philosophers, and the literary productions of Tolstoi, Dante, Goethe, Milton, Oscar Wilde, Emerson, Poe, Longfellow, Shakespeare, in French translation, and one or two productions each of many

other authors. Greek and French literary men, and the outstanding Spanish writers are represented. There are a few Arabian, Hindu, and Chinese works.

The library contains many books on agriculture, mines and their development, geology, botany, biology, zoology, anthropology, astronomy, geography and physiology. There are books on the army and navy. There are treatises on the subject of crime. The collection of books on dueling, on the status of woman, and numerous volumes on travel deserve mention. Neither has the field of education been neglected. There are hundreds of catalogs published by the most important Mexican schools, pamphlets on various phases of the subject, studies on the theory of education and on educational conditions in Mexico, and a number of text-books. Among the latter is an arithmetic, the earliest known to exist which was printed in America. ³⁹ Probably the most rare

39 Reaton, Pasamonte Atanasio, Arte Menor de Arismética y modo de Formar Campos. (México, 1649)

contribution in this field is the manuscript Crónica de la real y insigne Universidad de México, which is

the most authentic record extant of the first university in America - that of Mexico, founded in 1553.

García acquired the works of the outstanding Spanish historians, as well as the big collection⁴⁰ of documents relating to Spanish history. The

⁴⁰ Colección de documentos inéditos para la historia de España. 112v. (Madrid 1842-1895).

numerous books on French history, and individual historical characters of that nation are valuable in themselves. Joan of Arc is treated by eleven authors of various nationalities. He obtained sets of books on general European history, on the history of Greece, Rome, and England, on South and Central America, and the West Indies.

As a background to the study of the church in New Spain, he secured a collection of works dealing⁴¹ with the religious institutions of mediaval Europe,

⁴¹ Acta Sanctorum. 60v. (Brussels, 1863-1884).

⁴²
the history of the church in Spain, and many works

⁴² Flores, Enrique, España Sagrada, Theatro geographico historico de la iglesia de España. 35v. (Madrid, 1754-1786).

by well-known nineteenth century authors on the science and philosophy of religion. The literature on the church in Mexico is abundant. There are sets of histories treating of its founding and development, chronicles relating the activities of the Franciscan, Dominican, Augustinian, and Jesuit orders, and many works on the lives of individual missionaries, and church fathers, the most complete accounts being those of Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús and Don Juan de Palafox. Some notes and a partial outline on Margil de Jesús have been found among the scattered personal papers of García which indicate that he contemplated writing a biography of the man. Among the various works on the Inquisition in Mexico are some rare Autos de fe, 1646-1659.

A very necessary cornerstone of any library is a carefully selected group of bibliographical guides. García acquired the very best to be found, Beristain y Sousa, Andrade, García Icazbalceta, Medina, and others.

43 Beristain de Souza, José Mariano, Biblioteca hispano-Americana Septentrional o catalogo y noticia de los literatos etc. 3v. (Mexico, 1816-1821).

Andrade, Vicente de Paula, Ensayo bibliográfico Mexicano del siglo XVII. (Mexico, 1899-1900);
García Icazbalceta, Joaquin, Bibliografía Mexicana del siglo XVI. Primera parte. (Mexico, 1886);
Medina, José Toribio, La Imprenta en Mexico 1539-1831. 8v. (Santiago de Chile, 1907-1912).

Of this section Mr. Winkler says,

- "The bibliographical equipment
- is above praise. It reveals the masterly
- hand of the collector." 44

44 Winkler, E. W., Letter to Dr. E. C. Barker.

In the García Library there is to be found a complete file of the first newspaper, the Gazeta de Mexico, published in Mexico from 1728 to 1742; of a later Gazeta de Mexico from 1784 to 1822, and also a complete file of the first daily newspaper, El Diario de Mexico, for the years 1805 to 1817. In addition to these, there is a collection of newspapers for almost every period since the War of Independence, increasing in number during the presidency of Porfirio Díaz, and the revolutionary period since his day.

García himself made a good general statement of the nature of the manuscripts owned by him.

"All these archives, on account of their private character, and because they

have belonged, with one exception, to prominent Mexicans, comprise letters and other documents of an intimate character which are altogether reliable; they were written by men of letters and of public affairs, ecclesiastics, political and military men, who have played a leading part in the history of Mexico from 45 the eighteenth century to the present time."

45 García, Genaro, Statement Concerning the Private Archives. Translated by C. W. Hackett. 3 p. typed copy, (n. p., n. d.).

Among the archive collections which García was able to secure were those of Lucas Alamán, a political leader and Mexican historian, whose papers cover the period from 1810 to 1853; Ignacio Comonfort, a military chief and politician, whose documents deal with events from 1838 to 1863; Valentín Gómez Farías, the father of the Mexican Reform Movement, whose records treat of events from 1820 to 1856; and of the three relatives, Vicente Guerrero, of War of Independence fame, Mariano Riva Palacio, prominent in governmental affairs, and Vicente Riva Palacio, newspaper man, lawyer, and historiographer, whose combined archives numbering 26,000 folios, cover the years from 1810 to 1897. These three copious and most interesting archives were presented to García by his brother, Daniel, who was always very generous to

him.

46 García, Genaro, "Advertencia" in
Documentos inéditos, XIX, 6.

This manuscript material is of untold value for developing all phases of Mexican history, the period of the War of Independence, the troubles with Texas and the United States, the War of the Reform, the French Intervention, the Díaz Regime, and the revolutions of 1910 and the following years. The equivalent of many of these groups of manuscripts are to be found in no other place.

No better evidence of the value of the García Library as a tool in the hands of research workers need be desired than the results which are beginning to issue from this Library. While the manuscript material is still practically uncataloged and the card catalog of the printed matter but lately finished, various works published, or ready for publication, testify to the wide field of interests to which it caters. Among these are; Some Bibliographical Notes on Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz by Dorothy Schons, which was published by the University of Texas, press in 1925; "Mexican Society as Seen by

Fernandez de Lizardi" by J. R. Spell, published in
Hispaña, April, 1925; Memoirs of General Antonio
López de Santa Anna; Translation with Introduction
and Notes of an unpublished manuscript by Willie

47 M. A. Thesis. University of Texas. 1923.

- Ward Watkins; Gómez Farías, the Father of the Reform
Movement in Mexico by W. H. Callcott, of the Depart-

48 Now in press.

- ment of History in the University of South Carolina;
The Mysticism of Amado Nervo by Pella Phipps; The

49 M. A. Thesis. University of Texas. 1925.

- Relations between Antonio López de Santa Anna as
President and Valentín Gómez Farías as vice-president
of Mexico, April 1833-January 1835 by Helen M. Hunni-

50 M. A. Thesis. University of Texas, 1925.

- cutt; Musical Education in North America during the
Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries,

51 Ph. D. Thesis. University of Texas, 1923.

"First Music Teachers in America" in Catholic Historical Quarterly, October 1922, and "Aztec Music and Musicians" in Proceedings of the Music Teachers National Association, 1925, all by Lota Spell

These studies in themselves are an eloquent tribute to the versatility of the man and his tools. He gathered for practical purposes. His books will never be wall decorations. Neither in appearance nor content would they serve this end. In their original binding plain but sturdy, the volumes collected by Genaro García await the searching eye of investigators from many fields.

In the judgment of the people best able to pass on the collection as a whole the García Library is the best collection of materials of Mexico now in the United States. It is possible that it is the best in the world. While the National Library in Mexico is rich in Mexicana and also the Bancroft Library at the University of California, both of which contain many more volumes, their field of interest is much ^{wider} ~~under~~. García centered on Mexico. He saw every problem from that angle and he studied

every field with a view to determining Mexico's place in it. It has been said by Dr. James A. Robertson that no student could do a piece of work in the field of Spanish American history from now on and feel that his work was complete, or that he had exhausted the field, unless he had examined the resources of the García Library.

Chapter III

The Editor

The work of Genaro García as an editor is indeed a fine contribution to the scientific historical literature of Mexico. With such a mammoth collection of books and manuscripts at his disposal this is not surprising. Probably the work that will serve as the most lasting monument to him is the Documentos inéditos o muy raros para la historia de México, a collection of inedited or very rare documents in thirty-seven volumes. This is truly a rich mine of materials for the future writers of Mexican history. In the introduction to the first volume García speaks of the necessity of preserving the historical documents in order that a full and complete historical study of Mexico may be made. This was evidently the dream of his life as he said he had devoted many years to the furthering of that patriotic idea, and this accounts for the collection he made. He said, "But it is not enough to preserve the documents. It is necessary to classify and put them into circulation for the public to know and

criticize and use for the elaboration of history."⁵²

52 García, Genaro, ed., "Introduccion" in Documentos inéditos o muy raros para la historia de México. (México, 1905.) II.

For the above reasons he proposed the publication of important manuscripts found not only in his collection but also in those other private libraries to which he had access, in addition to those which he deemed of unusual importance in the national archives.

⁵³
He said also that he expected to reprint very rare

53. García, Genaro, "Introduccion" in Documentos inéditos, v. I.

or especially valuable manuscripts which were contained in such voluminous publications as the 112 volume and 42 volume sets of documents whose high price made them inaccessible to both the student and the general readers.

As García believed that history was not history unless written scientifically he wished to make available for students the most reliable sources, giving precedence to the documents of historical value,

irrespective of their origin. He says, "Possessed of a love for the truth we will search for and present what will contribute and clarify, without letting ourselves be led by hostilities or preferences for persons, parties, or ideas."⁵⁴

54/ García, Genaro, "Introducción" in Documentos inéditos. . . I.

Although the title carries with it the idea of an inedited work it is certainly partially edited. Out of the thousands of manuscripts at his disposal he has selected the hundreds which he included. He put in numerous notes of explanation, and he indexed the volumes. The introduction to each one is a very noteworthy feature. It gives in brief form the nature of the contents, where the documents were obtained, and, in many cases, he presents a sketch of the main character whose letters or papers are published.

In trying to edit and publish a volume about every two months the work is not as carefully done as it might be. Mr. C. A. Duniway, in reviewing the various volumes on the French Intervention, criticizes the editor rather severely. "In the exercise of his

editorial discretion he has not avoided the republishing of many well-known, often-cited documents. Neither has he taken the pains to indicate by editorial notes where the documents have been previously published, or to what extent he prints previously unknown matter."⁵⁵

55 Duniway, C. A., "Review of La intervencion francesa en México, segunda parte," in American Historical Review, XIII, 888-890.

The first five volumes of the set were published under the joint editorship of Genaro García and Carlos Pereyra. In the introduction to the fifth volume García said that he wished to publicly express his gratitude to Pereyra for the good will, the consecration, and the intelligence with which he had helped him found and maintain the publication during the first year, and that they separated at that time in order for Pereyra to devote his attention to other business affairs.

This set contains exceedingly valuable works for the various epochs of Mexican history. For the colonial period there are manuscripts on the activities of the Inquisition, documents on the work of the

clergy in establishing the Christian religion in New Spain, selections from the many documents relating to Don Juan de Palafox and his battle with the Jesuits over the tithing question, some poems and prose written by the colonial poet, Villalobos, papers giving accounts of the rebellions which occurred in Mexico during Spanish domination, and one volume on the early colonial history of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Texas.

The period of the War of Independence is represented by a volume containing material on the part played by the lower clergy during those years, letters of Morelos, the Ozores papers, or brief sketches of the important alumni of some of the noted colleges in New Spain, and the very rare, but extremely important, work of Filisola on the cooperation of Mexico in the Central American struggle for independence from Spain.

The next period up to the French Revolution *Intervention* is treated in the volumes on Santa Anna and the wars with Texas and the United States, and his autobiography; the memoirs of Giménez, who was closely

associated with General Santa Anna; the papers of Dr. Mora, who paints the social situation of Mexico from 1836 to 1850; the work of Ramírez on Mexico during the war with the United States; the Paredes papers on the political, economic, and military conditions in Mexico at the beginning of the war with the United States; and the documents, written by the most prominent political and military men of that age, which throw much light on the hitherto little known personality of General Paredes.

There are thirteen volumes on the French Intervention. Three of them comprise the letters and documents of Mexican leaders only, while the other ten volumes contain documents taken from the private papers of Marshal Bazaine. These include his letters, orders from Napoleon III, the Minister of War, and other high officials of France, as well as some documents of Mexican military men. The material in these volumes clearly portrays the secret designs of Napoleon, pictures the state of Mexican society, and gives detailed accounts of the military events of those years.

George P. Garrison, in reviewing one of the volumes in the general collections says, "While this series of Documentos inéditos hardly affords the same abundant proof of Sr. García's ability and erudition as some other works of his, notably his Carácter de la conquista Española, he is doing historical science in America a real service in the publication of the series and his enterprise certainly deserves sympathy and support."⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Garrison, G. P., "Review of Causa mandaba formar a Don Leonardo Márquez," in American Historical Review, XII, 699.

The other remarkable, collection edited by Garcia is the Documentos históricos Mexicanos, in seven thick volumes, which was designed to be a part of the celebration of the first centennial of national independence. H. E. Bolton says, "This monumental collection is worthy of the important occasion which it commemorates and of the scholarship of its distinguished editor."⁵⁷ This work was planned and carried

⁵⁷ Bolton, H. E., "Review of Documentos históricos Mexicanos" in American Historical Review, XVII, 640-643.

out at the instigation of the Secretary of Public Instruction, Justo Sierra, whose department also provided the funds. It was about the middle of the year 1907 when García received the commission, so he employed highly capable men and women to aid in the preparation of the various divisions of it. He praised their enthusiasm, perseverance, and intelligence and said that it was truly a cooperative work.

True to his principles of what constitutes authentic history he said⁵⁷ that the documents would

57 García, Genaro, ed., "Prologo" in Documentos históricos Mexicanos, I. (México, 1910.)

be selected upon their merit strictly, irrespective of political partisanship. Those inedited documents to be included were to be those of unquestionable interest and value for the War of Independence, from its origin to its consumation, whether written by royalists or insurgents. The documents which he chose are those showing the plans made for independence prior to 1810, those on the activities of Leona Vicario, Doña Josefa Ortíz de Domínguez, and a number of other previously ignored or unknown heroines of that dreadful

struggle, and those documents which present the legal proceedings instituted against Allende, Father Talamantes, and other prominent men of the time. Volumes three and four contain the fac-similes of all of the insurgent periodicals that García could locate after a most careful search.

The volumes are well-edited, each one contains a helpful introduction, a few foot-notes, and an excellent index. The original documents are faithfully copied and all editorial notes inserted in the body of the work are in parenthesis. In summing up his estimate of the collection González Obregón said

58 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García.

that it would be impossible to write a true history of Mexico for the years from 1808 to 1821 without the work of Hernandez Dávalos and this production.

Next in importance to the complications mentioned above should be presented García's edition of the Historia verdadera de la conquista de Nueva España by Bernal Díaz del Castillo. The edition that had always been used by historians was that one made by Father Remon in 1632, although they knew that it was

not authentic. García was convinced that "this most precious jewel in Mexican history", as José Fernández Ramírez called it, was indispensable for a complete understanding of the conquest, so he would not be satisfied until he could publish a copy as the author wrote it. There was a photographic reproduction of the original in the National Library but there was also a prohibition against copying and printing it. García wrote to the president of Guatemala, Manuel Estrada Cabrera, and expressed his desire to print the precious manuscript. The president, glad to cooperate, at once began forwarding to him, in instalments, an exact copy of the work. García verified it by comparing it with the photograph of the original. In publishing it he took care to religiously respect the original text without making the slightest variation, even in orthography or punctuation.

The many studies of Bernal Díaz himself which had been made, were not entirely accurate, as they were based on the faulty Remon edition, so García gives a short but concise sketch of his life to supply additional information and to make corrections in the other studies. George Parker Winship said,

"His edition may fairly expect to remain for a long time the standard text of Bernal Díaz's

narrative." 59

59 W., G. P., "Review of Historia verdadera de la Nueva España," in American Historical Review, XI, 937-938.

The members of the International Congress of Americanists recognized the editorial ability of Genaro García when they ask him to contribute something to the convention to be held in New York in 1902. He responded by editing and publishing Dos antiguas relaciones de la Florida. In a letter to the secretary of the Congress, he wrote,

"I chose the history of Florida for publication as an act of courtesy toward the nation which is friendly to my country." 60

60 García, Genaro, "Letter to General Secretary in Proceedings of International Congress of Americanists, (New York, 1902.)

These two relations, hitherto unpublished, are La vida y hechos de Pedro Menéndez de Áviles, written in 1568 by Bartolomé Barrientes, and La relación de los trabajos que la gente de una nao llamada Nuestra Señora de la Merced Padecio, written several years afterwards by Fray Andrés de San Miguel.

In an introduction of about ninety pages the editor gives interesting biographical accounts of

Barrientes and San Miguel and brief notices of the other explorers in Florida, as Ponce de León, De Soto and the Frenchman, Ribaut and Laudonnière. He denotes one chapter to the condition of the natives under Spanish domination. He had planned to make a more comprehensive study of the last division but he was unable to do so on account of an attack of fever from which he suffered at that time.

In August, 1910, García was commissioned by the Mexican Government to publish a great descriptive work on the fiestas which would be celebrated during the Centennial which would begin on September 16. It was to be of future historical service and at the same time, a means of honoring the heroes of the era of Independence. It was planned on a very elaborate scale but due to the shortness of time allowed him, insufficient funds, and the death of the editor's adored mother the plan was reduced to the one volume known as the Crónica oficial de las fiestas del primer centenario. It is an admirable production and of real worth because it portrays the social and economic conditions of Mexico. It is profusely illustrated.

Among the other editorial productions of

Genaro García those documents on the efforts of the French to gain control of the mines in the state of Sonora should be mentioned. The story is told in El Conde de Raousset Boulbon en Sonora, relación inédita, written by Manuel Maria Giménez. García gives a short account of the life of the adventurer, Boulbon, and a very brief notice of Giménez. The work is valuable, first, because it is authentic, and second, because "it abounds in detailed circumstances not found in any other known document." 61

61 García, Genaro, ed., "Introducción" in El Conde de Raousset Boulbon en Sonora (Mexico, 1905).

Another meritorious work is the editing of the Documentos inéditos del siglo XVI para la historia de México, collected and annotated by Mariano Cuevas. García says, in the foreword, that the documents are very valuable because they are written by persons of indisputable veracity, and, Moreover, they give a true and clear idea of life in sixteenth century Mexico. Cuevas, in his introduction, says ^{that} García had been the very soul of the undertaking.

A very unique composition is that volume entitled Los calendarios Mexicanos by Mariano Fernández

de Echeverría y Veytia which was published by the National Museum. Although, at that time, 1914, García was not connected with the Museum he was asked to edit the work. In the introduction he tells how Veytia came to produce the work, comments on its general usefulness, and then gives a brief survey of the contents.

As a further mark of his interest in the development of Mexican historiography there are the two alphabetical indexes which García prepared for the Documentos para la historia de Mexico edited by Orezco y Berra and for the Colección de documentos para la historia de la guerra de Independencia by Hernandez Dávalos.

In keeping with his belief that the future welfare of his country could only be studied and advanced through an appreciation of the past history of that country Genaro García worked unceasingly to increase a popular interest in Mexican history and to provide the materials for an extensive study of past events. As a collector he brought to light thousands of historical documents which he preserved and classified and as an editor he presented them to the public in a usable form. He was the editor of half a hundred volumes of historical manuscripts. Research workers in the field of Hispanic-

American history will use these volumes again and again. It is to his edited documents that Texans can go for the finer points in the lives of some of the early missionaries who labored within her borders, and for the motives which actuated Santa Anna and his men in the Texas-Mexican conflict. The Mexican historian or anyone working in that division of history, can rely upon his edited works for the personal, intimate details of the lives of hundreds of Mexico's prominent educational, military, religious and political leaders. Because of his painstaking editorial work Mexico's past life can be written in a more complete form.

The collector and editor of documents is absolutely necessary to the development of a scientific history of a nation. In speaking of García and the writing of history Teja Zabre said,

"Neither critics, nor orators, nor statesmen, nor poets, nor historical novelists would be able to make good use of it (historical material) without the previous obscure, slow but heroic work of the explorers." 62

62 Teja Zabre, Alfonso, "Discurso" in Boletín del Anales del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía (México, 1925) p. 114.

And Genaro García was an explorer in the field of scientific Mexican history for he blazed the trail for those who are to follow him.

Chapter IV

The Writer

From the richness and breadth of his library it is evident that Genaro García was a man of varied interests. Besides being a prominent educator, a distinguished collector and a noted editor, he was an eminent historian.

García was introduced to the Mexican public as an historical writer of no mean ability when he published the Carácter de la conquista Española en América y México in 1901. George Parker Winship said that this volume set the historical students of Mexico by the ears. It did cause a great deal of controversy because it presented an entirely new picture of the Spanish conquest. He was censured for painting only the shadows of that "glorious" event. Francisco Sosa led in the fight. The dispute was carried on publicly in the little semi-monthly bulletin, Boletín histórico Mexicano, edited by González Obregón and García. Sosa charged García with having defamed the Spanish race. García replied that he had simply let the witnesses and conquerors speak for themselves.

Sosa further attacked him on the scores of an inconsistent title, of the inopportuneness of the work, and of poorness of style. Pablo Macedo critized it also but admitted that he did not finish it because the numerous foot-notes and long citations made it tiresome reading. García replied that his doctrine was, "without documents there is no history". 63

64 García, Genaro, "Réplica" dirigida al sr. Don Pablo Macedo, in Boletín Historico Mexicano, (Mexico, 1901).

In the preface to this much discussed book García states that for centuries the records of the conquerers themselves, which were unfavorable to the Spaniards and favorable to the Indians, were kept secret by the Spanish Government and that even after the records were made available modern writers continued to follow the early historians; consequently, the literature on this particular period was inaccurate. Feeling that it was time for a true and authentic account to be written he assayed to write it. He limited himself to treating only the general features which characterized the conquest and in doing so he referred to the

Pera and Chile complete the second part. The part sec-

conquistadores themselves. To give greater force to his study he not only referred to the writings of the conquerers and to the most authoritative Spanish historians but transcribed their words literally. In fact, the greater portion of the book is made up of quotations.

The first division of the study is a discussion of the Spanish people. García gives brief sketches of the kings who ruled for some hundred years prior to the conquest, the characteristics of the people, their cruelty in expelling the Jews and Moors, and in the use of the Inquisition. In order to abolish heresy, intellectual progress was curtailed, and "militarism with all its destructive tendencies" continued dominant. Such were the people who came to America! Then follows an account of the classes who came, and the characteristics peculiar to each class.

The second division deals with the conquest itself, giving brief notices of the principal leaders in the whole of the New World and then to those in New Spain in particular. The conquest in Mexico is treated in much detail - almost wholly in the words of the participants. Briefer narratives of the conquest in Peru and Chile complete the second part. The past sec-

tion deals entirely with the after effects of the entry of the Spaniards. The wanton cruelty of the avaricious men is depicted in all of its horrible details. As a natural consequence the conquest led to the depopulation and degeneration of the natives.

While the book is very valuable for the historian it would not be a favorite of the general reader. It is not a well-connected story as a whole, although the section on the Spanish people is very well written. The author tells us that he had to write it in the isolated moments which he could snatch from the demands of his regular profession, which probably accounts for its disconnectedness. However, it verifies the truth of the writings of Las Casas, the Protector of the Indians, by showing how the Spanish conquerers really conducted themselves.

The author makes use of numerous foot notes, and not the least valuable feature of the work is the annotated bibliography of some fifty pages.

One reviewer, whose name is not given, says,

"It would scarcely be extravagant to say that the industry, the conscientious and critical use of documents, and the boldness

of thought apparent in this work make it highly creditable to the historical scholarship of Mexico." 65

65 (Name not given), "Review of Carácter de la Conquista Española en América y en México" in Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, V, 353-354.

García said that no one was ignorant of the fact that history is necessary and useful in assisting us to know the causes of human progress. He was ready to enter into any amount of research, no matter how much hard work it involved, in order to establish the truth in history. An outstanding example of this fact is his book entitled Juárez: Refutación á Don Francisco Bulnes. This was written in answer to the charge against Benito Juárez, in the book El verdadero Juárez y la verdad sobre la intervención y el imperio written by Francisco Bulnes. In the prologue García makes the statement that Bulnes falsifies the authentic historical documents, or deduces from them facts that they do not contain, cites writers by no means truthful, and contradicts himself. He proposes to prove these charges against Bulnes in this book.

The general divisions of the book are: the origin of the French Intervention, the Mexican National defense, the victory over the French and their Mexican

adherents, and the conclusions. García narrates the events of the French invasion with just enough detail to present the activities of Juárez. He gives little consideration to the beginnings of the invasion as he is only interested in showing that Juárez was powerless to prevent it. He is constantly refuting statements made by Bulnes, who charges Juárez with being irrevocably weak in this crisis.

One entire chapter in the second section, which makes up the bulk of the volume, is devoted to the refutation of the comparison which Bulnes makes between the organization and defense of Santa Anna against the North Americans during the war with Mexico, and that of Juárez during the first campaign waged against the interventionists. García shows that the sources used are the works of unrecognized historians instead of the official records. He comes to the conclusion that the two men are not comparable in any respect and that the parallel is unjust and cruel. The rest of this section disproves the charges of indecision and inaction made against Juárez. Bulnes doubts the patriotism of Juárez, although sometime before his book appeared he had publicly referred to the reform leader as a "great

patriot." García concludes that the book cannot be considered as a serious historical work.

When refuting a point García cites his specific references in the foot-notes. He also includes numbers of direct quotations in order to prove his statements. A seventy-five page bibliography is included in the work. The study throws considerable light upon the events which took place during that period of Mexican history.

A rather short, but very interesting, contribution to Mexican biography is Porfirio Díaz, sus padres, niñez y juventud. García was privileged to secure some of the biographical facts which he used from President Díaz himself. The author tells of the marriage of that humble couple, Porfirio Díaz's parents, and of the home they built in the state of Oaxaca, of the birth of Porfirio, and of the death of his father, which occurred when he was only three.

García
Then ^{1/2} relates in a most graphic style the hardships of the little family and the heroic efforts of the mother, who worked incessantly to maintain the family respectably. She often worked until far into the night and her daughters, with Porfirio and his young-

est brother, Felix, aided her. Thus, the future president learned to do manual labor and valued the lesson during his entire life. Yet the mother did not neglect the education of her sons, but provided for it in the very best way possible. The author then sketches the progress of Díaz's education. His mother wished him to be an ecclesiastic and was greatly disappointed when he decided to study law. The author closes the narrative by giving a few incidents in the early military career of Díaz and tells the story of his refusal to vote for Santa Anna which led to the necessity for flight. He made his escape into the hills with only one servant. García concludes with these words, --

"He had begun to be a man: he now was one." 66

66 García, Genaro, Porfirio Díaz, sus padres
niñez y juventud. (México, 1906.) p. 37.

biography
The story is well written. The style is simple, concise, and pleasing. The book gives a clear definite picture of the parentage and early life of the man who ruled Mexico for so long. David Hannay, in his study of Díaz, bases his account of the early life of the man on this study of García's. 67

67 Hannay, David, Díaz. (London, 1917), p.2.

A much fuller and more complete biographical study, however, is that of Leona Vicario. One of the reviewers of this book makes the following statement:

"So little has been done in the history of the revolution of Mexico that the story of Leona Vicario can but be applauded." 68

69 M., W. F., "Review of Leona Vicario" in American Historical Review, XVI, 397-398.

Although there were three studies of Leona Vicario, the heroine of the struggle for independence, there was no satisfactory treatment of her life and work prior to this one. García had access to numerous new documents and, therefore, made a more valuable study.

Leona Vicario, born April 10, 1789, had the advantages that well-educated and wealthy parents could give her. They were far in advance of their time in that they wished their daughter to receive an education. She did not disappoint them. She was given spiritual, moral, physical, and intellectual training. The author even describes the books that

she preferred. In relating the events which took place after the death of her parents Garcia shows the development of her character, in the management of her estate, and pictures the social life of that class in Mexican society. Her religious convictions are discussed at some length. The author tells in great detail the stories of the two saints, entirely different in character, whom she adored. Two chapters are devoted to her lovers, More

The latter half of the book is devoted to a relation of her part in the revolution against Spain. Leona embraced the cause of the insurgents at a very early time. Forgetting herself and the social position she was supposed to maintain, she worked unceasingly for the insurgent cause. She sent to the military chiefs, often in cipher, the information which she acquired, usually at great expense, and forwarded the messages from the leaders in the south to those in the north. She often spoke to the Mexican youth with great eloquence, endeavoring to arouse patriotic fervor in them, and she frequently visited the families of the soldiers, aiding them when necessary.

Because of her deep interest in the work Leona neglected to be careful and the royal authorities

captured a package of letters which led them to suspect her. Warned by her friends she fled before the royalists arrived. Then the author portrays the events of her life among the insurgents; her return to the capital, and imprisonment in the college of Belen; her trial, where loyalty to the cause she loved kept her from giving any information of any kind; her reimprisonment and her escape; and her life among the insurgents for the second time. She soon married one of her early lovers, the great patriot Quintana Roo, and in the life of the army camp she often suffered great hardships. For a time this couple refused royalist pardon, but finally accepted it, even though they remained liberals at heart. After their return to the capital Quintana Roo was given a government position but soon opposed those in power and was forced to flee. It was not until a few years before her death that Leona Vicario was allowed to enjoy a quiet and peaceful life.

This book is more than the story of the life of a woman, brave though she was, for it throws much light on the customs, the social and religious ideas, the educational and political institutions of the period, and sketches in a fairly satisfactory man-

ner, the events of the revolution. The treatment is disproportionate in some places, for instance, an entire chapter is devoted to Don Octaviano Obregón, the rejected lover, and a long account of Padre Domingo Pérez de Barcia, the founder of the college of Belen, is given.

The work certainly is valuable as a biographical study, as well as being entertaining reading. There is enough of glamor and romance about the girl herself and the time in which she lived to catch the interest of the reader and the author, by his easy flowing style and rich descriptive passages has been able to hold that interest to the very end.

"Any book on Colonial Mexico by Genaro García is worthy of attention." 69 writes H. E. Bolton.

69 Bolton, H. E., "Review of Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza" in American Historical Review, XXV, 126-128.

Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza is no exception, although it was written in a time which tried men's souls. In the foreword the author says that he lacked tranquility of mind because of the struggles that had almost ruined his beloved country, and also because of the terrible World War then raging.

The subject of this sketch was a remarkable man. He was bishop of Puebla, Mexico, and Osma, Spain, visitador general, and viceroy of New Spain. His life reads like a romance. Abandoned by his parents when an infant, he spent the first few years of his life in the home of a Spanish miller. Then his father found him and took him into his own home. He was sent to school for some years. As it was the beginning of the era of educational decadence in Spain, it was not exclusively his fault when he said that he had learned very little and lost much time. His father allowed him to leave college and made him administrator of the communities on the estate. He performed that service in such an exemplary manner that at his father's death he was charged with the management of the entire estate and with the tutorship of his younger brother.

When still a very young man, Don Juan became the favorite of some members of the nobility and through their influence he was appointed to various court positions, such as that of a member of the Cortes of Menzon. The next step in his career was his ecclesiastical ordination which led to his appointment,

by the king, as chaplain of the troops who escorted the Infanta Doña Maria to her new home in Austria.

Soon after his return Don Juan was appointed bishop of Puebla so he set out for New Spain. He made the voyage with the Duke of Escalona, the new viceroy, and shared with him in the honors and fiestas which attended their arrival. Philip IV had a very good opinion of Palafox for he named him visitador, or visitor, of New Spain, and juez de residencia, or conductor of the residencia of the viceroys, and commissioned him to reestablish commerce between Mexico, the Philippine Islands, and Peru. Such elevated charges had never before been given to the same individual.

But Palafox felt the greatest interest and concern for his work as bishop of the important province of Puebla. The author relates in some detail the nature of the tasks which Don Juan performed and the reader is impressed with the great kindness, piety, and humanness of the man. He worked constantly to maintain peace and justice, he administered to the needs of the poor, and endeavored to protect the Indians. He built thirty-five churches in the province.

By putting fifteen hundred men to work, and inspiring them to do their best, in eight years he erected the beautiful church in Puebla which is today a shining example of the architectural ~~skills~~ of that time. The writer then sketches the achievements of Palafox as viceroy and archbishop, positions which he filled in a creditable manner.

The second half of the book is not so interesting as the first because it deals with the controversy between Palafox and the Jesuits concerning the collection of tithes. This quarrel which extended over many years, is presented here in detail. The trials, tribulations, and persecutions of Don Juan are fully described. As a result of this contest he was recalled to Spain where he was later made bishop of Osma. García devotes the last chapters to his writings, his religious sentiments, his last days, and the struggles of his admirers in endeavoring to have him canonized. This task extended over a hundred years and the necessary formalities had all been complied with except the signature of the ^{then} pope, Clement XIV, when he suddenly died, and there the matter was dropped.

Genaro García had a strong subject and he

treated it in the manner which it deserved. The book is charmingly written. The interest of the reader is not allowed to lag for a moment. Not only enough rich colorful details are presented to give the reader a clear, vivid picture of this man, so important in colonial affairs, but also to present a view of colonial life. The able descriptive power of the author is shown in his presentation of the nature of the country which Don Juan passed through; of the capital city, the viceroy's reception, his palace; of the town and surrounding country of Puebla; and of the splendid church which was built in the town of Puebla, under the direction of Palafox. Not only does the reader catch a glimpse of the physical features of the country but the author also reveals the nature of the educational and political institutions and the manners and customs of the people.

In this volume, Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, there is a very valuable Bibliography covering over a hundred pages. Among the four hundred titles which are included there are many unpublished manuscripts, now very precious because of their rarity. A remarkable thing about it is the fact that the material is all in his own library. He states,

"Sundry circumstances oblige me to limit myself to the writings that I could find in my own particular library." 70

70 García, Genaro, "Advertencia" in Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza. (México, 1918.)

García wrote a valuable monograph which he called El plan de independencia de la Nueva España en 1808. This monograph begins with an account of the stirring events in Spain in 1808; that is, the abdication of Charles IV "in favor of his ally and very dear friend," the Emperor Napoleon of France, to whom he ceded all his rights to Spain and the Indies. The effects of such an announcement upon the inhabitants of New Spain were varied. The peninsulares, or those members of the population who were born in Spain, and to whom the Spanish Crown accorded all of the privileges in the government, felt anxious uncertainty and deep consternation.

The creoles, or those people born in America of Spanish parents, took an entirely different view of the matter. Official positions, either religious or secular, and even of medium importance, had been denied them. They believed, also, that the courts discriminated against them. Therefore, it was not surprising that they had long felt deep resentment against the Spanish monarch, although they had always looked upon separation as an

impossible Utopia. Now, however, they urged that as Spain had not been able to preserve her own autonomy she could not hope to maintain dominion over her far away colonies so the future looked very bright to them. They had no fear of France who was too deeply involved in European affairs to bother with New Spain. So the creoles began to organize for emancipation with feverish impatience lest they lose their opportunity. The peninsulares were not watchful for they never dreamed that this class who had been submissive for three centuries would even think of rebelling.

The creoles were led by Fray Melchor de Talamantes, Francisco Primo de Verdad y Ramos, and Juan Francisco Azcarate y Lezama. These leaders called a meeting where they adopted a plan, similar to that of the American colonies, for calling a general congress to organize the forces of the colony and, in the end, to proclaim their independence. They knew full well that a plan providing for separation from Spain would not be acceptable to the mass of the people, composed largely of extremely ignorant Indians, so they resolved to work with great diplomacy, carefully covering their real designs.

García tells how they won the support of the viceroy, Iturrigaray, who fell in with the plans of the creoles, without realizing where they would lead him, because he felt that his own position was very insecure and he needed their support. A few personal facts about the man are given and his activities during the rest of his term as viceroy are clearly portrayed. After the formation of the Junta, or council, which was to rule in the name of Ferdinand VII of Spain, the viceroy was given ~~ex~~unusual power. The author relates the story of his dealings with the two representatives from the Junta de Sevilla, of the change in Iturrigaray and of the opposition to him because of his tendency toward a real dictatorship. The peninsulares were especially opposed to his actions. They formed a conspiracy against him, choosing as their leader the European, Gabriel de Yermo, because of his energetic character, practical sense and great prestige. Because of an old grudge which he bore against Iturrigaray, Yermo was willing to lead the conspirators, provided there would be no bloodshed. Account is then given of the capture of the viceroy.

The last part of the study deals with the appointment of the new viceroy, with whom no faction was satisfied, and the temporary triumph of the peninsulares.

The author sketches the last days of the creole leaders whose efforts had not been in vain for the ideals of independence once just a dream had now become real and the creoles were beginning to unite in a common purpose. The study is a satisfactory, connected treatment of the happenings in Mexico during the years 1808 and 1809.

While it is true that Genaro García is best known as an historian he did not limit himself solely to historical writings. Of the numerous articles and criticisms which were published in the political journals and literary periodicals of the 80's and 90's only one has been found in the library. This was the first one of his articles to be published.⁷¹ It is entitled Breves

⁷¹ García, Genaro, Notes.

Apuntes sobre la Belleza grandisidad y sublimidad en el arte literario. In the article he discusses the two schools of art and beauty, the subjective and objective. He quotes passages of poetry to show sublimity in beauty and gives a well-worded description of a portion of the Sierra Madre Mountains as an example of the quality of grandeur in beauty. He next applies the qualities of sublimity and grandeur to human actions,

and then finishes the article with just the kind of moral one would expect from a nineteen year old boy.

In the same year, 1886, he published a small novel, with the title of Inelda. His own judgment of it is that it tried but failed to be a romantic novel.⁷²

⁷² García, Genaro, Notes.

Some time later he wrote another novel entitled Pobre Belem which was published under the pseudonym of "Franco Leal."⁷³

⁷⁴ The writer has been unable to locate these books.

García was very fond of music. On account of his affection for Luis von Beethoven he even wrote a biographical study of him. He dedicated this biography to the famous Mexican composer, Ricardo Castro.⁷⁵ For

⁷⁵ García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

some reason there is no copy of this study in the library.

Genaro García seems to have had a keen interest in the position of woman in society. He believed that her status in a group at any given time was a true

index to the state of civilization of that group. In 1890 he wrote an article on La condición de la mujer según Herbert Spencer which was published first in a legal journal and later reprinted in other periodicals. ⁷⁶

⁷⁶ García, Genaro, Notes.

As mentioned above, he wrote the thesis for his lawyer's degree on the subject, La Desigualdad de la Mujer, or The Inequality of the woman. In 1891 he published a small volume on Apuntes sobre la condición de la mujer. In this study which really incorporates the points made in the thesis (the writer has not seen the magazine article), García traces the change in the status of woman from primitive times, when she was a mere chattel, through the ages down to modern times. He then cites the laws of the Mexican government which refer specifically to her. He points out the fact that, although the constitution provides for equality for all before the law, the women of Mexico are very unjustly treated. He wrote,

"In these works I defend the ideas of modern feminism." ⁷⁷

⁷⁷ García, Genaro, Notes.

Being a college professor for so many years

it is to be expected that García would do some writing on education. González Obregón mentions the fact that he wrote articles and pamphlets on educational subjects.⁷⁸

78 González Obregón, Genaro García. p. 4.

The pamphlet that the writer had access to, La educación nacional en México, was written in 1903. The author makes a plea for better educational facilities for the Indian in order that he might come under the "magic school influence." He compares the Mexican educational system with that of other countries, the United States, in particular, and shows the inferiority of the Mexican system. He shows that the only remedy for the antagonism between the official schools and the private church schools is the nationalizing of education. He pointed out the fact that the teachers were usually old and poorly prepared, hence the pupils were not spurred to seek knowledge. He further said that if Mexico was to be a real republic, able to assume the national sovereignty and delegate it to her sons she would have to change her psychological and social state by extending and making uniform the national educational system. This should be done in such a way that

ilities of the public officials.

education should be

"equal and satisfactorially accessible for all without an exception, for creoles, for mestizos, for Indians, for men, and for women." 79

79 García, Genaro, La Educacion nacional en México. (México, 1903), p. 10.

García believed that in order to make good citizens the youth of the land should be familiar with the laws, consequently he prepared ^{four} civics text-books to be used in the schools. The Derecho constitucional, written in 1913, was under the joint authorship of García and Adalberto A. Esteva. It was ^{designed} for first year students in civics and ~~is~~ based on the Constitution of 1857, which was in force at that time. In the first section of the book the meaning of society and the rise of constitutional government are briefly discussed, and the various constitutions of Mexico are enumerated, the inherent rights of man are explained and the term, Mexican citizen, is defined. The latter half of the text is an explanation of the form of the government, the three branches with the rights and duties of each branch, and the responsibilities of the public officials,

In 1916, García published another text based on the constitution of 1857. This book is Nociones de derecho usual which was prepared for second year students in civics. In the preliminary chapter he very clearly defines such terms as nationality, civil rights, political state etc. He explains the laws dealing with civil rights of persons, property, contracts, and inheritance. For instance, he quotes the laws relating to marriage and divorce, then explains, or tells, who are eligible for marriage, the formal ceremonies necessary, the rights and duties of each contracting party, and then explains that if either party fails to fulfil the "contract" the other should be allowed to institute proceedings for breaking the said contract. He then gives the legal grounds for divorce, cites the provision for legal separation, providing their lives together prove unbearable, and gives the article allowing for reconciliation, as it would be absurd for the government to prevent or refuse to allow the divorce proceedings to be dropped or to refuse to annul the divorce "when they are the only parties interested." ⁸⁰ Other

- ⁸⁰ García, Genaro, Naciones de derecho usual. (Paris, 1916), pp. 14-20.

divisions under the civil code are dealt with in a similar manner.

The rest of the book is an explanation of the laws relating to trade and commerce, the penal code, and the laws declaring what the nature of the penalty shall be in each case of a violation of the law.

When the old constitution was replaced by the Constitution of 1917 Garcia immediately wrote two new texts ~~based on~~ this constitution. In the foreword of one of them, Nociones de instrucción cívica ajustada a la constitución de 1917, he tells the professors who will teach this text that it is not necessary for the children to be able to repeat the various articles but that they must comprehend them. In an introductory chapter the author shows that a society is necessary, as man cannot live without the aid of his fellows, and that therefore, laws defining the rights and duties which should govern the relations of men in society are necessary. In this text he repeats a discussion of the Mexican constitutions.

Each one of the twenty-nine articles covering the individual guarantees of the Mexican people is discussed and some reasons are given for its inclusion.

The comment on Article 2, the prohibition of slavery, may be taken as a typical one. In a few words he gives the origin of slavery, that is, that the primitive peoples ceased to kill their war captives after they learned that they could use the captives to labor for them and so a system of slavery was initiated. Then he showed that after many centuries, when a higher stage of civilization was reached, the people began to look upon slavery as cruel and inhuman and consequently, took steps to abolish it. Thanks to Hidalgo it was abolished in Mexico in 1810 and the constitutions since that time have continued to prohibit it. The writer notices a historical discrepancy here.

81 García, Genaro, Nociones de Instrucción
cívica ajustada a la Constitución de 1917. (Mexico, 1917), p.14

In this book also García has a chapter on the Mexicans and the qualifications for citizenship. He explains national sovereignty and the form of government for which the constitution provides. The body of the text is devoted to the division of powers and the powers and duties of each division. There is a chapter on the labor legislation included in the new constitution. The

scheme of the text entitled Nociones de derecho constitucional is very similar to his earlier work, Nociones de derecho usual, except that it is adjusted to the Constitution of 1917. He traces the change in governmental policy and the need for a new code of laws, and then states that the object of the book would be to study the one hundred and thirty-six articles of the new constitution. As it is for second year students in civics the comments are a little fuller than in the other texts.

All of these civics texts have questions at the end of each chapter. The comments are made clearer by the use of example to illustrate various cases. However, the explanations are not sufficiently original or different from other civics texts to allow the reader to arrive at any particular political philosophy of the author.

One of the handsomest volumes to be found in the García collection is La arquitectura en Mexico, another book which was planned for the centennial celebration but which was not completed until García edited and published it in 1913. It is really an album. It

contains an introduction and historical notices of the building of the various churches, chapels, and convents, written by the editor. There is also a well-worded description of these buildings written by Antonio Cortez and Carlos Gonzalez Peña. The unusual feature of the work is the fact that there are one hundred and thirty large photographs of the churches built in Mexico during Spanish control. These fine pictures show both exterior and interior views. They are clear, distinct and artistic in themselves, besides presenting to the world a conception of the architectural ability of the colonial inhabitants of New Spain. García was deeply interested in this work and hoped to see published many volumes showing all phases of colonial architecture.

One of the first literary efforts of García was that task performed in conjunction with his brother, Daniel, of translating the two volumes, Los antiguos Mexicanos, and El antiguo Yucatán by Herbert Spencer. It was a difficult undertaking for they found many badly translated, and even entirely incorrect passages, therefore they thought it necessary to see the original edi-

tions of the authors quoted. It took time but in the end they succeeded in finding them all. They then compared the above mentioned passages with the original texts and from that study they were able to make an exact and authentic translation. In El antiguo Yucatán they transcribed the passages, taking them directly from the authorized editions.

From this presentation it is seen that the number of books actually written by Genaro García is not large. Of that number about half of them treat of miscellaneous subjects. The writings on history by which he is best known, are contained in only six volumes but the quality of them makes up for the loss in quantity. With his splendid collection and other archives in Mexico to draw from, he had adequate materials for making complete studies and he used these materials wisely.

Although a great deal has been written on the Spanish conquest his book on the event adds much toward a more complete knowledge of the details of it. The very fact that Pablo Macedo said he did not finish it because of the innumerable quotations and foot-notes used attests to its scientific character. García's

three biographical studies, the defense of Juárez and the study of the early plans for independence show the same careful workmanship. The excellent documentation, copious foot-notes, full bibliographies, etc., prove that he could and did handle the tools of a scientific historian.

His contribution then is valuable in two ways. In the first place the volumes in themselves increase very materially the sum of knowledge on the subjects which they treat. In the second place, García, as one of the first Mexicans to faithfully follow the principles adopted by modern scientific historians, serves as an example to the young historical writers whom he delighted to aid and encourage.

During the reorganization of the National Museum and also of the National Preparatory School he worked constantly all through the day and often until late at night.

EE García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

And, indeed, he must have labored unflaggingly in order to achieve all that he did within the fifty-three years of his life. One of the newspapers of Mexico City, in an article written at the time of his

Chapter V

An Estimate of Genaro García

After a study of the Collection, the writings, and the few scant personal details which were accessible, the writer comes to the conclusion that in many ways García was an unusual Mexican. For one thing, he was an indefatigable worker, which seems not to be an ordinary characteristic for a man of his standing in Mexican life. His son, Trinidad, mentions time and again the fact that his father was devoted to work. He said that his father loved it, often devoting ten hours or more a day to writing and studying. During the reorganization of the National Museum and also of the National Preparatory School he worked constantly all through the day and often until late at night.

82 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

And, indeed, he must have labored unflaggingly in order to achieve all that he did within the fifty-three years of his life. One of the newspapers of Mexico City, in an article written at the time of his

death, states that one of the causes of his final illness was due to the fact that he had devoted more than thirty years to intense mental labor, and that, although he was a man most methodical, orderly, and simple in his habits, this long-continued strain finally over-⁸³powered him.

⁸³ El Excelsior, (Nov. 27, 1920).

There were some queer quirks in his character. For instance, it seems odd to find that such a scholarly man was practical and mechanical enough to be fond of carpentry, and yet, he was, and in his library he⁸⁴ had a complete set of tools.

⁸⁴ García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

García, as is frequently true of the Latins, had a keen sense of the beautiful and artistic. Not only did he accumulate objects of artistic value as has been mentioned, but he was also exceedingly meticulous about the general appearance of the books to which he gave his stamp. He was particular about the kind of paper that he used, and he also gave careful attention

to the printing, the spacing, the binding and the other mechanical features of a book. His illustrations deserve special note. The plates and full-page cuts which he selected are choice from every standpoint. Especially delightful to the artistic eye are the appropriate, well-executed, and even unique drawings that are placed at so many chapter headings or used in other places in the books. Many of them are designs taken from the native Indian art and they add much to the beauty of the books.

This educational leader, master collector, and eminent historian was known and admired at home and abroad, as is shown by the fact that many learned societies appreciated the worth of his writings and other labors to the extent of voting him into their membership. Some of the Mexican societies that recognized their countryman in that way were Academia Mexicana de la Historia, Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística and Ateneo Mexicano Literario y Artístico. The Hakluyt Society in London voted to make him an honorary member because of his edition of Historia verdadera by Bernal Díaz del Castillo. In appreciation of his services in the field

of modern scientific history the Société Académique de Histoire Internationale de Paris not only chose him as a member but also bestowed upon him a gold medal. ⁸⁵

85 García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson.

He was a member, of the Real Academia de Bellas Letras de Barcelona. García was numbered as one of the members, of the American Antiquarian Society and the American Historical Association. Mexican leaders further demonstrated their esteem for him by choosing him as a delegate to numbers of conventions and celebrations of various kinds. ⁸⁶ Unfortunately, he was unable to attend all of

86 For a complete list of the societies to which he belonged and his appointments as a delegate see the appendix.

these meetings. In 1914, at the instigation of President Huerta, a National Academy of History was organized for the purpose of publishing inedited documents on the history of Mexico. García was one of the men chosen to found the Academy. - ojo

As a professor he was a success. As a director of national schools he was recognized and honored.

learned philosopher, Agustín Rivera, dedicated several

The National Museum under his leadership enjoyed remarkable growth and great increase in prestige. García Naranjo, the secretary of Public Instruction at that time, 1913 - 1914, and a man well-acquainted with men and public affairs in Mexico, after careful study and deliberation, chose Genaro García as Director of the National Preparatory School. After pointing out the sad condition of the school and the need for an efficient director he presented the charge to him in the following words:

"The Secretary of Public Instruction has chosen you as steersman for the first voyage of the reformed ship because he trusts in your iron arm for the command, in your firm heart, overflowing with passionate love for the Mexicans, and in your intelligence that is like a diamond whose facets are always ready to receive the light that caresses them and to reflect it back again multiplied in many colors."⁸⁷

87 García Naranjo, Nemesio, Colección de Leyes y Reglamentos. (México, 1914), p. 197.

An estimate of the accomplishments of Genaro García is to be found in the words of the men who knew him. García Naranjo esteemed him highly enough to choose him for an important post in the educational field. The learned philosopher, Agustín Rivera, dedicated several

pamphlets to him as a mark of gratitude and friendship. On the fly-leaf of one of them he wrote,

"To my esteemed friend, Don Genaro García, with the respect due to the author and editor of works which have so enriched the history of our country." 88

88 Rivera, Agustín, Confirmación de la vista de Juárez al cadáver de Maximiliano. (México, 1912.)

In a brief summary of the achievements of Genaro García, Herbert I. Priestley wrote,

"His arduous life service deserves the greatest recognition from the Mexican people for he gave them the distinction of possessing a ripe scholar of international renown." 89

89 Priestley, Herbert I., "Death of Genaro García" in The Hispanic American Historical Review. IV, 772-773.

González Obregón adds,

"Genaro García will be judged for his good faith. He was as ingenuous as Bernal Díaz del Castillo; sentimental as Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas; active, fruitful, and ardent as Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza to whom he devoted the last and most learned of his books." 90

90 González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García, p.8

At a celebration of the first centennial of the establishment of the National Museum, which was held in Mexico City in 1925, one of the speakers was Al-

fonso Teja Zabre. In speaking of the Museum, its growth and importance he said,

"As the National Preparatory School has kept the name of Gabino Barreda and the University that of Justo Sierra, so the Museum ought to keep, as devotedly, the name of Genaro García, I do not intend to rebel against the primordial law of history by conceding first place to one of the last in time; I do not know the merits of the men of science who founded and enlarged the Museum, among whom being such learned ones as Orozco y Berra, Jose Francisco Ramírez, Paso del Troncoso, and Dr. Urbina, but as I do not intend a review but an evocation I ask permission to offer my homage to the creator of the National Museum in its character of a modern scientific and educational institution. It is not only my gratefulness that speaks nor pure sympathy that moves me; after García Icazbalceta, Justo Sierra, Francisco Bulnes, and Luis González Obregón belongs to Genaro García, the honor of having immensely enlarged the horizon of the history of Mexico. Don Genaro was not a poet, nor orator as Don Justo, nor a critic as Bulnes, nor had he the patient curiosity and exquisite narrative ability as Obregón. He was a constructor, miner, and educator and searched for that which our historiography most needed, materials of first hand, order and clarity." 91

91 Teja Zabre, Alfonso, "Discurso" ⁱⁿ Boletín del Anales del Museo Nacional de Arquitectura, Historia y Etnografía. (México, 1925), pp. 113-114.

The contribution which García made to the growth and development of the history of his country will be of lasting worth to those scholars who do research in

any field of Mexican history. He himself would proclaim that his books and the compilations to which he gave his stamp are copious materials for the true and future historian who writes of the past events of his country.⁹²

p. 5. ⁹² González Obregón, Luis, Genaro García,

His greatest contribution, however is not the books which he wrote and edited but the mammoth collection of books and manuscripts which he made. This collection was his life work, his chief joy and pride, and it reflects the type and personality of the man himself. If it had to be lost to Mexico it is peculiarly fitting that the García collection of materials for Mexican history should be placed in the University of Texas Library. As a gateway to the border it is here where scholars may come to learn of their neighbor, Mexico, to read and study the romantic history of her past, to investigate the social, economic, and political conditions of her present, and from such a study to formulate the policies that will lead to the best future relations between her and the other countries of the

world. The García Collection, then, will serve as a letter of introduction to Mexico, her peoples and her problems.

APPENDIX

Genaro Garza was a member of the following societies:

APPENDIX

- Academia Mexicana de la Historia.
- American Antiquarian Society.
- American Historical Association.
- Ateneo Mexicano, Literario y Artístico.
- Círculo de Obreros "Victoriano Zepeda," del Saltillo.
- Hakluyt Society.
- International Congress of Americanists.
- Liceo Mexicano.
- Liga Antiescolástica Nacional.
- Real Academia de Bellas Letras, de Barcelona.
- Royal Society of Arts of London.
- Société Académique de Histoire Internationale de Paris.
- Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate.
- Société de Americanistes de Francia.
- Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística en Michoacán.
- Sociedad Indianista Mexicana.
- Sociedad Manuel María Contreras.
- Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística.

Sociedad para el cultivo de las Ciencias y de las Artes.
Society for National Research of London.

Genaro García was a member of the following societies:

Academia Mexicana de la Historia.

American Antiquarian Society.

American Historical Association.

Ateneo Mexicano, Literario y Artístico.

Círculo de Obreros "Victoriano Zepeda," del Saltillo.

Hakluyt Society.

International Congress of Americanists.

Liceo Mexicano.

Liga Antialcoólica Nacional.

Real Academia de Bellas Letras, de Barcelona.

Royal Society of Arts of London.

Société Académique de Histoire Internationale de Paris.

Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate.

Société de Americanistes de Francia.

Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística en Michoacan.

Sociedad Indianista Mexicana.

Sociedad Manuel María Contreras.

Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística.

Sociedad para el cultivo de las Ciencias y de las Artes.
Society for National Research of London.

Genaro Garcia was chosen as a delegate
to the following scientific congresses and commemorative fiestas:

El Centenario de las Cortes de 1812 en Cádiz.

El XIV Congreso Internacional de Antropología Prehistórica en Osnabrück, en 1912.

El XVIII Congreso Prehistórico del Franco, en Argel.

El Primer Congreso Pan-Americano de Santiago del Chile.

El Primer Congreso Universal de Ciencias en Londres.

La Comisión para hacer estudios de la Instrucción

Reglamentaria en México.

La Unión Ibero-Americana en México.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

II

1. Primary Materials

Genaro García was chosen as a delegate to the following scientific congresses and commemorative fiestas:

El Centenario de las Cortes de 1812 en Cádiz.

El XIV Congreso Internacional de Anthropología Prehistóricas en Ginebra, en 1912.

El XVIII Congreso Prehistórico del Francia, en Anselmo.

El Primer Congreso Pan-Americano de Santiago del Chile.

El Primer Congreso Universal de Razas en Londres.

La Comisión para hacer estudios de la Instrucción Rudimentaria en México.

La Unión Ibero-Americana en México.

Winkler, E. W., Letter to Mr. E. C. Baker
(Mexico, Feb. 7, 1921).

B. Newspapers

El Excelsior (1920).

El Universal (1920).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Primary Materials

a. Manuscripts

García, Genaro, Notes on My Life (Typed copy, 2p.) (Mexico, undated).

García, Genaro, Statement Concerning the Private Archives Tr. by C. W. Hackett (n.p., n.d.,).

García, Trinidad, Letter to Miss Jackson (Mexico, Feb. 23, 1926).

Rivera, Agustín, Confirmación de la vista de Juárez al Cadaver de Maximiliano (México, 1912).

Winkler, E. W., Letter to Dr. E. C. Barker (México, Feb. 7, 1921).

b. Newspapers

El Excelsior (1920).

El Universal (1920).

c. Printed Sources

Anales del Museo Nacional de Arqueología,
Historia y Etnografía (México, 1903-1913).

Boletín del Museo Nacional de Arqueología,
Historia y Etnografía (México, 1904-1913).

Diario de los debates de la cámara de
diputados, Cong. XVI - XXVI, (México, 1892 -
1912).

García, Genaro, Letter to the General Sec-
retary in Proceedings of the International
Congress of Americanists, 13th Session.
(New York, 1902).

González Obregón, Luis, "Genaro García"
in Boletín del Museo Nacional de Arqueo-
logía, Historia, y Etnología (México, July
1922).

Iguiniz, Juan B., "Mexican Contemporary
writers: Licenciado Genaro García" in
Boletín semanal de información bibliográfica
Nacional (México, 1919).

2. Secondary Works

Adler, Cyrus, "Review of Autos de fe de las Inquisición de México," edited by Genaro García (México, 1910), in American Historical Review, XVI, 179-180.

Barker, E. C., "Review of Leona Vicario, heroína insurgente," by Genaro García (México, 1910), in Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, XIII, 238-329.

Boletín de la Escuela Nacional Preparatoria (México, Feb. 1914).

Bolton, H. E., "Review of Documentos históricos Mexicanos" edited by Genaro García (México, 1910), in American Historical Review, XVII, 640-643.

———, "Review of Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, obispode pueble y Osma, visitador y várrey de la Nueva España," by Genaro García

(México, 1918), in American Historical Review, XXV, 126-128.

_____, "Review of Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, su virreinato en la Nueva España," edit ed by Genaro García (México, 1906), in American Historical Review, XII, 425-426.

_____, "Review of Dos antiguas relaciones de la Florida," edited by Genaro García (México, 1902), in Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, XI, 255-256.

_____, "Review of Historia de Nuevo Leon con noticias sobre Coahuila, Tejas y Nuevo México," edited by Genaro García (México 1909), in American Historical Reivew, XV, 640-642.

Club Liberal Independiente,
El programa del Genaro García (Zacatecas, 1912).

Duniway, C. A., "Review of El sitio de Puebla en 1863 según los archivos de

Don Ignacio Comonfort," edited by Genaro García (México, 1909), in American Historical Review, XV, 425.

———, "Review of La intervención Francesa en México; primera-decima partes, edited by Genaro García (México, 1907-1910), in American Historical Review, XIII, 880-890; XIV, 163-164; XV, 193-194; XVI, 398-399; XVI, 680.

García, Genaro, Apuntes sobre la condición de la mujer (México, 1891).

———, ed., Boletín histórico Mexicano (México, 1901).

———, "Breves apuntes sobre la belleza, grandiosidad y sublimidad en el arte literario" in El Liceo Mexicano (México, 1886) I, 83-85.

———, Carácter de la conquista Española en América y en México. (México, 1901)

_____, ed., Crónica oficial de las fiestas del primer centenario de la independencia de México. (México, 1911)

_____, Discurso pronunciado en honor de Juárez (Mexico, 1906)

_____, ed., Documentos historicos Mexicanos. 7v. (México, 1910).

_____, ed., Documentos inéditos del siglo XVI para la historia de México. by Mariano Cuevas, comp. (México, 1914).

_____, ed., Documentos inéditos o muy raros para la historia de México. 37v. (México, (México, 1905-1911).

_____, Don Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, obispo de Puebla y Osma, visitador y virrey de la Nueva España. (México, 1918).

_____, ed., Dos antiguas relaciones ^{de} el la Florida (México, 1902).

_____, ed., El conde de Raousset-Boulbon en Sonora. Relación inédita by Manuel María Giménez (México, 1905).

_____, El plan de independencia de la Nueva España en 1808 (México, 1903).

_____, ed., Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España by Bernal Díaz del Castillo (written in 1568) 2v. (México, 1904-1905).

_____, Informe del Museo Nacional (México, 1912).

_____, Juárez: Refutación a Don Francisco Bulnes (México, 1904).

_____, ed., La arquitectura en México by Antonio Cortez (México, 1914).

_____, La desigualdad de la mujer (México, 1891).

_____, La educación nacional en México (México, 1903).

_____, Leona Vicario, heroína insurgente
(México, 1910).

_____, ed., Los calendarios Mexicanos by
Mariano Fernández de Echeverría y Veytia
(México, 1907).

_____, Nociones de derecho constitucional
(México, 1917).

_____, Nociones de derecho usual (México, 1916)

_____, Nociones de instrucción cívica ajus-
tada a la constitución de 1917 (México, 1917).

_____, Porfirio Díaz, sus padres, niñez y
juventud (México, 1906).

_____, "Réplica dirigida al Sr. Don Pablo
Macedo" in Boletín histórico Mexicano (Méx-
ico, 1901) I, 1-4.

_____, Réplica dirigida al Sr. Don Fran-
cisco Sosa (México, 1901).

García, Genaro and Esteva, Adalberto A.

Derecho constitucional (México, 1913).

_____, García, Genaro, and García, Daniel, trs. El antiguo Yucatán, by Herbert Spencer (Mexico, 1898).

_____, and _____, trs. Los antiguos Mexicanos by Herbert Spencer (México, 1896).

García, Trinidad, Discurso pronunciado por por el director de la Escuela Nacional de Sordo-Mudos en la repartición de premios a los alumnos (México, 1894).

_____, La teoria del beneficio de amalgamación (México, 1888).

_____, Reseña del viaje presidencial a la negociación minera de Santa Ana (México, 1896)

García Naranjo, Nemesio, Colección de leyes y reglamentos (México, 1914).

Garrison, George P., "Review of Causa Mandaba formar a Don Leonardo Márquez", edited

by Genaro García (México, 1906), in American Historical Review, XII, 699.

González Obregón, Luis, Los conquistadores antiguos y modernos del Sr. Don Francisco Sosa. (México, 1901).

M., W. F., "Review of Leona Vicario, heroína insurgente," by Genaro García. (México, 1910), in American Historical Review, XVI, 397-398.

Priestley, Herbert I., "Death of Genaro García" in The Hispanic American Historical Review, IV, 772-773.

Reeves, Jesse S., "Review of Antonio López de Santa Anna: mi historia, militar y política; 1810-1874; memorias inéditas," edited by Genaro García, (México, 1905), in American Historical Review, XI, 716-717.

(Reviewer unknown), "Review of Carácter de la conquista Española en América y en México" by Genaro García (México, 1901), ⁱⁿ the

Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, V, 353-354.

(_____), "Review of El Clero de México y la guerra de independencia," edited by Genaro García (México, 1906), in American Historical Review, XII, 931-932.

(_____), "Review of Autos de fe de la Inquisición de México," edited by Genaro García (México, 1906), in American Historical Review, XII, 422-423.

Sanchez, Santos, Trinidad, "Revista" en La Voz de México (México, 1896).

Smith, Justin H., "Review of Anotnio López de Santa Anna. Las guerras de México con Tejas y los Estados Unidos", edited by Genaro García (México, 1910), in American Historical Review, XVI, 375-376.

_____, "Review of El General Paredes y Arrillaga; su gobierno en Jalisco..... según su propio archivo," edited by Genaro

García (México, 1910), in American Historical Review, XVI, 679-680.

———, "Review of Memorias del Coronel Manuel María Giménez, ayudante de campo del Gen. Santa Anna 1798-1898" edited by Genaro García (Mexico, 1911), in American Historical Review, XVI, 862.

Sosa, Francisco, Conquistadores antiguos y modernos (México, 1901).

———, En defensa propia (México, 1901).

Teja Zabre, Alfonso, "Discurso" in Anales del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnografía (México, 1925).

Walker, H., Impuestos sobre la industria del petróleo (México, 1912).

W., G. P., "Review of Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España, by Bernal Díaz del Castillo, (1568), edited by Genaro García (México, 1904-1905), in American Historical Review XI, 937-938.

Winship, George Parker, "Review of Carácter
de la conquista Española en América y en
México," by Genaro García (México, 1901),
in American Historical Review, VII, 757-758).